

MONDAY 5.12.25 - Luke 2:51

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem frantically searching three days for their 12-year-old son, Jesus. When they found Him, he said, “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

“Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. “Jesus had been in the temple discussing profound matters with teachers and scholars. All that heard him were amazed at his wisdom. In contrast, by returning to Nazareth with his parents, the Creator of the Universe demonstrates the importance of humility, obedience and family. Within that family, Mary is aware of the divine purpose and mission of Jesus and surely begins to contemplate and cherish the wonder of what has just taken place. It’s a reminder to parents to pay attention to the special moments, words and events in our children’s lives and how they may impact the future.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.13.25 - 1 Thessalonians 2:7

7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children.

It is interesting how the apostle Paul equates his care for the Christians in Thessalonica to that of the care of a mother for her young child. How does a mother care for her young child? First, her care is selfless. She puts the needs of her child above her own needs. She is also wise. She knows what her child needs and she is committed to providing for those needs. Finally, she is gentle and loving. This is how the apostle Paul says we are to interact with our brothers and sister in Christ, who may be struggling and with the world which most certainly is struggling. So, let me ask you, are you selfless in your interactions with others?

Are you seeking wisdom from God as to how you can give them what they need? Are you treating them with love and a kind and gentle spirit?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.14.25 - John 20:22-31

According to the Journal of Marine Science and Engineering, researchers in 2023 were surprised to discover new underwater species in Ha Long Bay of Vietnam. They identified this new species of sea sponge in an underwater tunnel. The sponge is named *Cladocroce pansinii*.

In John 20, Jesus rose from the dead. While this was wonderful news to His followers, some of them struggled to accept the reality of His resurrection—even after seeing Him with their own eyes. After leaving the tomb, Jesus encountered Mary Magdalene (vv 11-18), ten of His apostles (vv 19-23), and then all eleven apostles, including Thomas (v 26). Thomas struggled with the idea that Jesus rose from the grave. It is human nature to struggle with belief. When Jesus saw Thomas, He had a word for him (and us): “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.15.25 - Exodus 4:1-12

Today’s longer passage recites an experience all of us have had. God calls us to believe something, either because we have read it in Scripture and the Spirit of God called to us, or we heard the Spirit talk to us quietly in our hearts while engaged in some event or with a particular person.

Perhaps we were meditating and we were moved to go and do something special, moved by God. But we hesitated, we gave excuses to God for our own dereliction of our duty to obey. Were we afraid? Did we think we could not speak? Was the action too difficult? The fact is, God could make our hand leprous and cure it. And has he not already done miraculous things for us? The God of the ancient days is the same God who is ours today. Think on these things and believe. And then obey Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.16.25 - Psalm 28:7

Psalm 28 is a lament that comes from deep within King David’s heart. He is pleading for God’s deliverance from his enemies, entreating the Lord not to turn His ear away from him. David’s words are a powerful declaration of faith and reliance on God, especially in the face of adversity. They offer encouragement and a reminder of God’s unwavering presence and protection. When facing challenges, remember that God is your strength and shield, and trust in His ability to help you through. Cultivate a heart that trusts in God, even when the events of life seem uncertain or difficult, because God is always faithful. Make a conscious effort to express gratitude and praise to God. This spiritual discipline can help to strengthen your faith and bring joy to your heart. Even during adversity, remember that God is with you and that there is always reason to rejoice in His presence.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	SUMMER QUARTER – Sunday Mornings at 9:40 LOCATION: B8-10 – Gene Steinruck- begins June 1. EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Psalms - Let the ancient words meet you where you are. Listen as God speaks to your heart and reminds you how much He cares about you. LOCATION: B11 Teacher: TBD – begins June 1 st . BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE (part 1) Risk Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith - Though exercising our faith can feel risky, see that the God we follow turns it into a grand adventure when we place our trust in Him. LOCATION: B11 – Teacher: TBD – July 13 th & 20 th . Safe and Secure: Our Eternal Security in Christ

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Kids	MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level Not meeting this evening. RESUMES IN THE FALL
Youth	YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street) Not meeting this evening.
Adults	LOCATION: Worship Center Not meeting this evening.

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY - beginning June 5th 6:30pm – Rm. B8-B10.
REVELATION: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom - by Jen Wilkin.
Understand Revelation as the culmination of God’s great story.
This is a 10-week study led by Denise Whitfield and Lisa Domenico.
Sign up at the information tables or on the connect card!

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - began April 23rd - 6:30pm - Rm. B8-10
TOGETHER – Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church - Be transformed by connecting to a community of believers. With Barry Wills

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

2 Timothy 1:4-7
Thanks, Mom!

We hear much about Paul and Timothy in the pages of the New Testament, but we don’t hear much about Timothy’s mother. However, in 2 Timothy 1, we discover four verses that give us a brief glimpse into the life of Eunice. There we find five distinct contributions that a mother makes in her home.

Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. (v 4)

❖ S_____

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (v 5)

❖ S_____

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power ... (vv 6-7a)

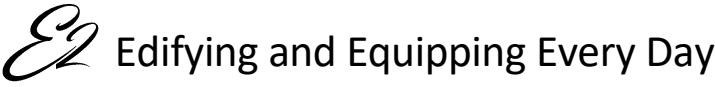
❖ S_____

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love ... (v 7b)

❖ S_____

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (v 7c)

❖ S_____



TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 12 – May 16

INTRODUCTION:
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:
Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from April 11th. “Thanks Mom!” with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 18th, “The First Seven Words of the Risen Savior” (Part 3) , with Pastor Doug Lyon

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12